



November 2006 Newsletter

Meetings of the Iowa Afterschool Alliance

The Iowa Afterschool Alliance meets monthly via ICN unless otherwise noted. Meetings are open to anyone interested in afterschool issues.

The next meeting will be:

December 19th, 9:30-11:00am

To request ICN sites and/or to RSVP for meetings, please contact Rachel Lynch at rlynch@sppg.com.

Please mark your calendar for the following other meetings:

January 10th, 9:30am-11:00am

February 13th, 9:30am-12pm (Advocacy Training and IAA Meeting)

Location TBD

United Way Advocacy Grant Update

The Iowa Afterschool Alliance is one of six recipients of an Advocacy Grant from the United Way of Central Iowa. This grant will allow the IAA to train afterschool advocates in Fort Dodge and Central Iowa in specific strategies to work with legislators on a comprehensive policy agenda to support afterschool. Though we previously proposed training in Cedar Rapids, the United Way asked us to shift the focus more toward central Iowa. We strongly encourage you to participate in one of the trainings and on the Afterschool Day on the Hill!

January 24, 2007 9:30am-12pm

Advocacy Training at Butler Elementary, Fort Dodge
945 S. 18th

Please RSVP to Rachel Lynch at rlynch@sppg.com or 515-243-2000

February 13, 2007 9:30am-12pm

Location TBD, Des Moines

Please RSVP to Rachel Lynch at rlynch@sppg.com or 515-243-2000

March 15, 2007 7:30am-9:00am

Afterschool Day on the Hill, Iowa State Capitol
Legislative Dining Room

Please RSVP to Rachel Lynch at rlynch@sppg.com or 515-243-2000



The Iowa Afterschool Alliance (IAA) Newsletter is a monthly venue of information and updates on afterschool programs and policies. For more information, please contact Rachel Scott at rscott@sppg.com or 515-243-2000.

Developed by the Policy Work Group, the IAA's 2007 Policy Agenda is currently being shared with a number of other organizations in order to gain feedback and expressed support. If your organization would like to review the Policy Agenda and appear on a list of supporters for the IAA 2007 Policy Agenda or if you would like to join the Policy Work Group, please contact Policy Chair Kevin Koester at kkoester@ankeney.k12.ia.us.

Afterschool "Blueprint" Meetings

Council Bluffs and Iowa City both hosted Afterschool Blueprint Meetings within the last month. In these communities, afterschool and child care workers, school administrators, parents, elected officials, employment specialists, law enforcement officers, media, and others convened to discuss the status of afterschool in their communities. From what's currently working well to identifying gaps in services or coordination of resources, afterschool stakeholders engaged in lively discussion about the needs of children and youth in those communities and statewide.

Common themes included the need for programming for older youth, transportation needs, problematic eligibility requirements for programs, affordability of quality programs, and the need for a variety of types of afterschool programs to meet diverse needs. Summaries of these meetings will be posted on the IAA website in January.

Iowa's New Afterschool Ambassador: John Border

The Afterschool Alliance recently announced the selection of John Border of Davenport Community Schools as 2006-2007 Afterschool Ambassador for the state of Iowa. Selected from some of the most effective afterschool programs and advocacy organizations in the nation, the Ambassadors work every day to help keep kids safe, inspire children to learn and help working families. They know firsthand the barriers and benefits that communities face in making afterschool available to all children.

Mr. Border's duties as Community Education Project Manager for Davenport Community Schools include the management of Stepping Stones, a successful before and after school program, as well as leadership of the district's Volunteer Office. He is currently in his eighth year of building quality before and afterschool

programs for students in Davenport. Border also serves as a founding member of the Iowa Afterschool Alliance, and is a member of the Iowa Community Education Association, receiving its Professional Services Award in 2005. Additionally, he has served the National Community Education Association as a contributing member of the Continuous Improvement Process for After School (CIPAS) site visitation team.

The Alliance selects 15 to 25 Ambassadors from around the country each year, and then provides training, technical support, and modest funding for their Ambassadorial activities throughout the school year. Those activities include: coordinating a major Lights On Afterschool! community event; working in concert with other local providers, advocates and business and community leaders to promote afterschool; reaching out to policy makers and the media on afterschool issues; and more.

To contact John, please email:

borderj@mail.davenportschools.org

National Polling Data Reveals Strong Voter Support for Afterschool

Voters want the new Congress and their newly elected state and local officials to increase funding for afterschool programs, according to a public opinion survey conducted on election eve and election day. Developed by Lake, Snell, Perry & Associates, Inc. for the Afterschool Alliance, the poll found that 72 percent of voters agree that "our newly elected public officials in Congress should increase funding for afterschool programs," and just 24 percent disagree. When asked if they'd support "increase[d] funding for afterschool programs even if it leads to a tax increase," 69 percent of voters said they want funding to increase. Seventy-three percent want their newly elected state and local officials to provide more funds for afterschool programs.

"Voters know that afterschool programs keep kids safe, inspire them to learn and help working families," said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. "They voted for change, and now they want the officials they elected to invest in the future by making quality afterschool programs available to all children and families. "Despite an agreement embodied in the No Child Left Behind Act for steady increases in afterschool funding, federal support has been slowly eroding for five years.

Other findings:

- * Eighty-two percent of voters agree that there should be some type of organized activity or safe place for children and teens to go after school every day that provides opportunities for them to learn (66 percent strongly agree).
- * Support for afterschool crosses party and ideological lines. Eighty-eight percent of Democrats, 84 percent of Independents and 76 percent of Republicans agree on the need for an organized activity or safe place for children and teens, as do 70 percent of conservative men.
- * Two in three voters (65 percent) say that afterschool programs “are an absolute necessity” for their community. Seventy-eight percent of Democratic women, 60 percent of Republican women and 96 percent of African American voters agree with that statement.
- * When told that kids in afterschool programs are less likely to get involved in criminal activity, use drugs or alcohol, become teen parents and drop out of school, 89 percent of voters, including 85 percent of Republicans, 86 percent of men, and 88 percent of people who attend a religious service every week, say afterschool programs are very (66 percent) or somewhat (23 percent) important.

“Support for afterschool programs is broad, deep and enduring,” Grant added. “Americans recognize that these programs provide tremendous benefits. Lawmakers should pay attention. The federal 21st Century Community Learning Centers afterschool initiative is badly under-funded and, with the exception of California, few states are doing as much as they could to support afterschool programs. The result is that too many students are alone, unsupervised and at risk when the school day ends. Addressing this need is a high priority for voters, and it should be a high priority for lawmakers as well.”

The public opinion telephone survey was conducted on November 7 and 8, 2006, and reached 1,000 registered voters nationwide. Its margin of error is +/-3.1%.

Out-of-School Time Arts Study

Last session, HF 2797 appropriated funds and provided guidelines for a study of arts education and enrichment programming for school age children outside of school settings. 109 afterschool programs

participated in an electronic survey developed by the IAA, the Iowa Arts Council and a Resource Group. The survey asked about availability, quality, funding, and other issues related to arts programming offered during out-of-school time.

Additionally, the Iowa Arts Council would still like to identify Model Out-of-School Arts Programs. We encourage you to nominate your program using the attached application (both PDF and Word versions are available). The nomination deadline has been extended to December 7th. Survey results and selected Model Programs will be highlighted on the Iowa Arts Council website and included in the Report to the Governor.